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# WEEKLY TIMES



THE VOICE OF THE COUNTRY SINCE 1869

## HIGH STEAKS

THE MUSTER TO FIND THIS YEAR'S BEST FARMERS IS ON



Picture: Yuri Kouzmin



### INSIDE REGIONAL RATES RORT

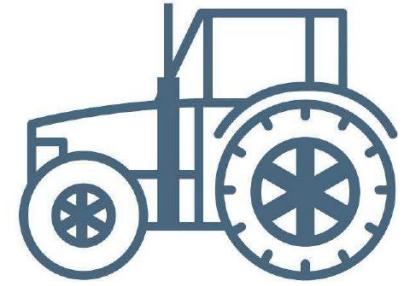


### Coles awards grants to Aussie producers to drive sustainability

coles nurture fund

See back page for more.





## New seeder is a soil pleaser

COLIN TAYLOR

A NEW machine that can drill, seed, fertilise and finish a seedbed in one pass has just hit the market, designed specifically for smaller acreages and farmers wanting to improve their pastures.

The Cosmo Bully mini-till disc seeder is imported by Pak-enham-based agricultural equipment manufacturer Farm Implements, sourced through a US supplier.

The machine is a stand-alone product for the company, which has held the sole distributorship for Cosmo Bully since 2015 covering Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and the Pacific.

Managing director Tim Alcott said the unit was released for sale through its national

dealer network in July after an extensive program of field testing.

"We initially envisaged the Bully as a no-till seeder, but the realities of Australia's sometimes challenging sowing conditions dictated that we go to minimum tillage," he said.

"The machine comes in two sizes, 140 and 198, with working widths from 1.4m to 1.98m.

"Each model then includes two further variants – the SD (using a 33cm straight, or "bubble", coulters) and WD (a 20mm wavy coulters).

"The bubble coulters has a sharp leading edge, flat section above and bubbles to disturb the surface, while the wavy coulters cuts as well as disturbing the side wall.

"It's like a boning knife as against a breadknife. Straight-

bubble coulters are designed for paddocks with light residue where minimum stirring of the soil is desired, while wavy coulters help manage residue by cutting through old crop and opening a strip in the soil.

"They have good tilling action, achieving a fine soil tilth and softer side wall at all speeds in dry, sandy and heavy soil conditions."

Designed for tractors from 40-90hp (29-67kW), the spring-loaded swept-back design of the double opening discs allows the seeder to float over uneven ground while the 190mm spacing can be controlled by shutting off seed cups.

"The machine is fitted with two independently calibrated



The Cosmo Bully mini-till disc seeder, which is priced at \$12,100, can create a fine soil tilth in dry, sandy and heavy soil conditions.

seed boxes," Mr Alcott said. "The front box comes with an agitator and is ideal for large

seed and-or granular fertiliser, while the rear is designed for fine seed and legumes."

The seeders are priced from

\$12,100 (including GST), plus freight and dealer installation fees.

To find out more visit [farmimplements.com.au](http://farmimplements.com.au)



Seeding and tillage manufacturer and importer Serafin Machinery, of Griffith NSW, has unveiled a new forward-fold seeder bar.

## Serafin expands its reach

COLIN TAYLOR

NEXT week's AgQuip field days will host the first public showing of a new forward-fold seeder bar from seeding and tillage manufacturer and importer Serafin Machinery, of Griffith NSW.

Released in 18m and 24m versions, the machine features a narrow transport width, two rows of single-disc units and minimum row spacing of at least 250mm.

The unveiling at Gunnedah follows demanding trials conducted near Swan Hill in Victoria sowing mainly canola and wheat.

Serafin marketing co-ordinator

Rodney Dunn said the immediate feedback on those trials had been encouraging.

"This operator had around 15,000 acres (6070ha) to do in a short time frame and he was able to achieve a thousand acres (400ha) a day very comfortably," Mr Dunn said.

"The final design phase for the machines has taken 12 months, but by the time that ended orders were ready to go. We have sold two 24m models so far and have another on order already."

The introduction of the latest seeders follows closely after the release of the company's new 9m Hi Lift models in the Ultisow single-

disc seeder range earlier this year.

Serafin Machinery has been designing and building its own range of no-till disc seeders since 2008, starting with a simple Ultisow 12m single-disc air seeder frame and developing a full range of seeders from 3m to 24m wide and with row spacings as small as 150mm.

"A lot of customers over the years were wanting to go wider and we had produced a 70-foot (21.3m) bi-fold machine, but the frames were hard to transport and we often had to assemble them on-site," Mr Dunn said.

"We were keen to offer something that was relatively narrow for transport, but still heavy and robust and of-

fering good penetration. With this forward-fold machine, the wings fold upwards and around to minimise height and transport width and also allow good access to the row units for maintenance.

"We're still running two rows of disc openers on 250mm row spacing, but introducing hydraulic down-pressure control managed from inside the tractor cabin.

"You'd need tractor power of at least 380hp (283kW) for the 18m and 480-500hp (357-372kW) for the bigger machine.

"Inquiries have been coming in from around the country for both broadacre and controlled traffic ap-

plications, where the 24m width suits those buyers' requirements.

"We plan to debut an 18m machine at the AgQuip field days, but we're now taking orders for next autumn with our order books almost full through to the end of this year.

"After Gunnedah, we're hoping to have a machine at Henty, but that's it for our field days program for the rest of the year."

Pricing for the 18m model starts at \$521,057, excluding GST, but the final cost is dependent on the row spacing and optional extras selected.

To find out more, visit [serafinmachinery.com.au](http://serafinmachinery.com.au) or phone 1300 737 586.

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